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Franklin Lewis



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- 1 The reassessment of Sa'dī and his literary achievement continues, this volume weighing whether or not the reputation he once enjoyed in Enlightenment Europe was fully deserved. This work, the title of which comes from a line of Sa'dī's verse, sides with Sa'dī's admirers (as does another recent monograph on Sa'dī by Homā Kātūziyān), without adding very much new information or analysis. However, it does distill a good deal of information into a quickly digestible format, suitable for students or other newcomers needing a short, reliable, general introduction to the life and works of Sa'dī.
- 2 The chapters cover Sa'dī's life and the socio-political circumstances of his day (pp. 9-26), a helpful chronology (pp. 27-31), a short discussion of his works (which while admitting the lack of imagery in his *ġazals*, nevertheless values them highly, pp. 33-79). Two chapters are devoted to quotations from Sa'dī's detractors (pp. 93-102) and from his supporters, with the latter having the longer and final word on the matter (pp. 113-167). Perhaps the most original contribution of this work is its comments on the text-critical difficulties in Sa'dī's texts and its brief suggestions about how future editors might approach the manuscript tradition of his works (pp. 103-112). A bibliography and some notes are included, and while this thin volume lacks an index, the chapter divisions and section headings will help guide the reader to specific items in the text.

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Thèmes : 11.1.1. Littérature persane classique

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